

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015 @ 7:00 P.M.  
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER  
MINUTES**

Members present: Mr. Sean Clough, Chair, Mrs. Kellie-Ann Heenan, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Virginia Harnois, Secretary, Mrs. Rose Marie Cipriano, and Mr. Brent Barrows. Also present were: Mr. Robert O'Brien, Superintendent, Mrs. Bridget Morisseau, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Craig Levis, Director of Special Education, Mrs. Lisa Cournoyer, Director of Financial Operations, Kevin McAllister, Esq. School Committee/School Department Attorney, Ryan Strik, Student Representative to the School Committee. Mr. Clough called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Mr. Clough read the Emergency Evacuation and Health Notification, notified the public of the public comment sign-up sheet, and reminded the public to speak at the podium when addressing the Committee.

2. Mrs. Cipriano moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:

2.1 Minutes of the October 5, 2015 School Committee Meeting

2.2 Bills

A) Regular Bill invoices totaling \$380,055.74

B) Prepaid Checks from October 5, 2015 through October 16, 2015 totaling \$40,630.97.

2.3 Leaves

A) Mollie Smith, Speech Language Pathologist, personal day leave January 22, 25, 26, 27, 2016; and an unpaid leave from January 28, 2016 through February 5, 2016.

B) Diane Bonn Damle, Social Studies, High School, personal leave for the 2016-2017 School Year.

2.4 Resignations

B) Janet Roy, Paraprofessional, Old County Road Elementary, effective January 1, 2016.

2.5 Appointments

A) Alex Borts, Volunteer Assistant Boys' Soccer Coach, Fall 2015, pending receipt of successful BCI.

Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion but requested that Consent Agenda Item 2.4 (A) Resignation of Craig Levis, Director of Special Education, effective November 27, 2015 be removed from the consent agenda. The motion to approve the consent agenda items passed with a 5-0 vote.

The motion to approve Consent Agenda Item 2.4 (A) Resignation of Craig Levis, Director of Special Education, effective November 27, 2015 passed with a 5-0 vote.

All of the School Committee Members, along with Mr. O'Brien and a former student of the district thanked Mr. Levis and offered heartfelt sentiments for his dedication and hard work over the years with Smithfield's Special Education Program.

### **3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

A high school representative Ryan Strik reported:

1. The class of 2017 is holding their ring distribution ceremony in the high school auditorium from 6-8 pm.
  2. October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, the class of 2016 will be holding private rehearsal sessions for this year's Fashion Show. The Fashion Show is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>.
  3. October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the National Honor Society will hold their Annual Induction Ceremony.
  4. October 24<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm William Winsor Elementary School will be holding their annual "Trunk or Treat" event.
  5. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, SHS had its annual Pep-Rally gathering. The student council organized a seniors vs. teacher's basketball game, with the SHS seniors winning 20-4. The SHS football team won a game against Tiverton 40-0 and are currently 4-0.
4. Mrs. Heenan moved revised 2016 school committee calendar be approved. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. The July date for the school committee annual calendar for the 2016 school committee meetings will be changed from July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 18<sup>th</sup>, this will give the school department more time to revise the budget for the upcoming school year.
  5. Mr. Levis gave an update on the status of the Preschool Playground. He said this had already been on a previous school committee agenda and it had been approved to go out to bid, but a choice had been made at the time not to go out to bid. He shared photos of the proposed playground. Mr. Levis told the Committee that the NAEYC (The National Association for the Education of Young Children) had informed him that Anna McCabe didn't have an appropriate playground to meet their requirements. The total approximate cost for the playground project is \$49,000. Mr. Levis said Smithfield is in the process of applying for a grant to assist with the funding; \$15,100 has already been raised for items that are not covered under the grant. Mr. Levis suggested that Smithfield go out to bid for the playground.
  6. Mr. Levis gave a presentation to the Committee on his response to questions he received from the Town Council pertaining to Special Education in the district. Mr. Levis explained that Special Education is unpredictable, it is difficult to estimate the cost of special needs. He plans on doing a presentation at the joint meeting with the Town Council on October 27<sup>th</sup> to help the council understand that budget estimations are difficult when it comes to Special Education. He explained that once students are enrolled, sometimes needs are identified at a later date, so it is difficult to estimate the cost of special needs.

### **7. COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A) Copy of the District's Annual Report
- B) Copy of the Budget Report Summary for period ending Sept. 30, 2015

### **8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Mr. O'Brien announced that Smithfield High School has received a \$20,000 EBEC (East Bay Educational Collaborative) STEM –Blended Learning Grant. The grant will provide a combination of interactive simulations and manipulative virtual and hands-on lab stations for the STEM Physics-Engineering program, and will also provide professional development for the teachers involved in the program.

Mr. O'Brien congratulated Dan Kelley, Liz Russillo, and Jacob Sosnowski for applying for this grant. He said their willingness to implement the program will offer tremendous benefits for students.

**9. PUBLIC FORUM:** None.

**10. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:** None.

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (Closed) pursuant to RI General Laws Section 42-46-5(a).**

At 8:00 p.m., Mrs. Harnois moved to convene into Executive Session to discuss matter pertaining to School Security in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)3.

Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. This requires an individual vote. The individual vote was 5-0 polled by Mr. Clough, Chair.

Returned to open session at 8:26 p.m. Motion to adjourn executive session made by Mrs. Cipriano. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mrs. Cipriano moved to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Cipriano; seconded by Mrs. Harnois. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Petrone  
Secretary